IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1 – 9 as filed, and insert therefore new claims 10 – 19 as follows:

- - What is claimed is:

10. A method for reversion of a fault in active peripheral assemblies of a communications system switching device, wherein at least one signaled communications link is switched via the active peripheral assemblies and connection data for the communications link is stored in the active peripheral assemblies, the active peripheral assemblies being in communication with central memory devices, the method comprising the steps of:

storing connection data elsewhere in a redundant manner in the central memory devices memory devices;

transmitting the connection data to the active peripheral assemblies after the occurrence of a fault; and

one of, interrupting or starting, transmission of the connection data at a later time in order to allow set-up of new communications links.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein a redundant passive peripheral assemblies is provided for the active peripheral assemblies.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the active peripheral assemblies is still active after the occurrence of a fault in the software of the active peripheral assemblies.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein after the occurrence of the fault, the previously active peripheral assemblies become passive and redundant assemblies are used as the active peripheral assemblies.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the connection data to be transmitted remains stored elsewhere.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of transmitting the connection data in blocks.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

checking hardware settings which already existed in the active peripheral assemblies on the basis of the connection data after at least partial transmission of the connection data; and

correcting the hardware settings if necessary.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the communications system is an ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) communications system.

18. A switching device for a communications system, comprising:

a central control unit for controlling a number of associated peripheral assemblies via which communications links can be switched;

the central control unit having a data memory in which connection data for signaled communications link which are switched via the associated peripheral assemblies can be stored; and

a unit for receiving and transmitting the connection data to the associated peripheral assemblies, whereby a connection manager in the associated peripheral assemblies one of, interrupts transmission of the